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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

Statement submitted by Tiye International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* E/CN.6/2007/1.

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Statement

"We are determined to…ensure the human right of… the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms…:…ensure the full enjoyment by …the girl child of all human rights… and take effective action against violations of these rights…(Beijing Declaration, paras. 9 and 23)"

Tiye International is pleased that CSW will be focussing on the issues of the girl child in 2007. This emphasis is of essential importance in a world wherein violence against the girl child is still so common. In many countries of the South, the education of the girl child is hardly ever a priority. A girl child growing up without education is extremely vulnerable. In many settings, we witness that children easily become victims of pornography and the sex industries, or are conscripted as child labourers. Girl children are also abused in conflict situations and are also forced to fight in the wars of their countries.

In the North, the bringing up of the girl-child is given more and more less attention, her individual freedom is neglected, her safety is compromised and her emancipation is likewise left unattended. This is the result of inequality in gender and the deep rooted patriarchal norms. These same norms limit the application of laws to its maximum.

Another severe problem facing the girl-child in the North, for example in the Netherlands, is the fact that many innocent children of asylum seekers are locked up in prisons together with their undocumented parents. These children can be deported on their own without support even to countries where they were not born, often without anyone who can receive them and guarantee their safety.

Even in their most intimate settings, most girl children are not safe. They are often subject to violence and incest practices in their homes, where they should feel most secure. According to research findings in the Netherlands, 15.6% of Dutch girl-children have been sexual abused before the age of 16 and have suffered sexual abuses in the hand of family members. Six to seven out of a hundred women in the Netherlands have been victims of incest (are abused). The average age that girl - children are abused start at around 11.4 years. 42.5% of these victims are abused within the nuclear family and their direct environment. 18.8% of the perpetrators are fathers or male caregivers, 25.4% are brothers, and 25.4% are uncles. Furthermore, the perpetrators are grandfathers, cousins, brothers-in law, or roommates.

As bad as it is these are not the only forms of violence against the girl child. Domestic violence, indirect impact of honour killings, mutilations are mostly done to the girl children world wide because of their vulnerability.

Abuse and other forms of violation of the rights of the girl child destroy the self confidence and respect of the girl child and the woman she becomes and have also impact on the generations to come, raised by these women.

Tiye condemns all forms of violence against the girl children, including physical, mental and sexual violence, torture and exploitation, hostage taking. Domestic violence, trafficking or sale of children and their organs, paedophilia, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism as well as the increasing phenomenon of gang-related violence.

Tiye is also deeply concerned that the situations of poverty, war and armed conflict girl children are among those most effected and that their potential for full development is limited. Also the girl children become victims of rape, sexual transmitted disease and increasingly of HIV, which have a serious impact on the quality of her life and leave her open to further discrimination, violence and neglect.

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal in a differentiated manner for women and girls and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, forms of multiple discrimination and limitation or denial of their human rights.

Tiye International urges the States 'o take all necessary measures and to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms.

Further Tiye International deeply urges States to strengthen efforts to prevent and protect girl children from all forms of violence through a comprehensive approach to protect girl children from abuse by government officials such as the police, law enforcement authorities and officials in detention centre or welfare institutions. Also to take measures to protect girl children from violence r abuse in schools including intimidation, maltreatment and bullying, to establish complaint mechanisms that are age- and gender appropriate.

Tiye International hopes that the year 2007 will contribute to emphasise the importance of taking appropriate measures to protect the rights of the girl child against all this injustice.